



Shahida Begum

YEAR OF CALL: 2008



Shahida has also worked on cases raising immigration, family and housing law issues which has led to a specialism in defending refugees and victims of trafficking. Shahida also practises extradition and crime-related public law. Shahida has acted in several protest cases raising civil liberties issues and has a varied appellate practice having been instructed in several guideline cases.

Shahida Begum is a specialist criminal defence practitioner. She has experience defending clients in a range of matters, from serious violence and dishonesty to drug supply and terrorism, and has experience with cases involving a cross-over with other practice areas.

If you would like to get in touch with Shahida please contact the clerking team:

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You can also contact Shahida directly:

CRIMINAL DEFENCE AND EXTRADITION

Shahida is a committed criminal defence practitioner. She is meticulous in her case preparation and has a reassuring manner with clients. Shahida has a wide range of experience.

NOTABLE CASES

Past notable cases can be viewed below. [Click here to see a list of recent notable cases.](#)

CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Terrorism

R v TM – Terrorism fundraising, fundraising for ISIS. Leading counsel.

R v KH – Membership of a proscribed organisation. Led by Hossain Zahir KC. Complex legal argument about undercover evidence, entrapment and extraterritorial effect.

Violence

R v DCN – Gang-related attempted murder/s.18, vulnerable youth defendant. Leading counsel.

R v DG – Perverting the course of justice, linked to a murder charge. Multiple defendants. Prosecution offered no evidence during the trial following cross examination relating to cell site and CCTV evidence.

R v SB – Attempted murder/s.18, issues relating to low IQ and self-defence.

R v MH – Attempted murder following family dispute.

R v KD – Conspiracy to kidnap and blackmail. Lead defendant.

R v OB – Section 18 with a youth complainant. Cross examination of several eyewitnesses.

R v RV – Section 18 and robbery involving a firearm. Multiple defendants.

R v AM – Section 18. Successful submission of no case to answer following cross examination of the complainant using mobile phone and CCTV footage.

R v FA – Section 18, fracture to eye socket. Application to dismiss on causation.

R v AS – Robbery with a knife. Facebook identification.

R v TS – Multiple count indictment of affray, ABH, common assault and criminal damage.

R v AM – Junior advocate, conspiracy to cause GBH on a police officer conducting a police interview on the prison estate. Led by James Scobie KC. Interpretation of drugs messaging.

R v AM – Junior advocate, conspiracy to import firearms. Led by James Scobie KC.

R v MW – Junior advocate, robbery and murder. Lead defendant. Led by Judy Khan KC. Dispute arising out of a sale of counterfeit clothing and counterfeit money.

R v SO-R – Junior advocate in gang-related murder. Led by Icah Peart KC. Telephone and cell site evidence. Multiple defendants, with conflicting defence accounts.

R v DM – Junior advocate in murder. Led by Bernard Tetlow KC. Novel legal argument about whether a police officer can give image comparison evidence where an expert has determined it would be unsafe to do so. CCTV and geo-spatial evidence.

R v DH – Junior advocate in joint enterprise attempted murder and wounding with intent in the alternative. Led by Bernard Tetlow KC. The deceased had attended the defendant's address with a knife and a hammer. The prosecution could not negate self-defence in relation to the fatal wound but alleged that the defendant and his brothers then followed and attacked the deceased intending to kill him. CCTV and call data evidence.

R v DH – Junior advocate in child cruelty linked to manslaughter charge of co-defendant. Led by Helen Johnson of Emery Johnson Astills.

R v MI – Junior advocate in conspiracy to cause GBH and possession of firearms. Led by Alex Taylor-Camara. Series of shootings in Bedford. Multiple defendants.

R v KP – Junior advocate in conspiracy to cause GBH and possession of firearms. Led by Minka Braun. 'Shoot-out' after a party. Multiple defendants.

R v SG – Junior advocate in conspiracy to commit robbery and possession of imitation firearm. Robbery of a high value vehicle with an imitation firearm. Multiple defendants.

Dishonesty/regulatory

R v SM – Trademark offences and breach of EU safety regulations. Application to dismiss on the basis 'not in the course of trade or business'.

R v IN – Multinational company in breach of planning regulations during London 2012.

R v AM – Conspiracy to facilitate illegal immigration. Lead defendant.

R v AH – Perverting the course of justice. Providing false details in a witness statement as a complainant, following an attack by a group of males with weapons.

R v NP – Junior advocate in conspiracy to commit burglaries and money laundering. Led by Minka Braun. Romanian nationals flown to the UK to commit commercial burglaries by abseiling into various locations. Multiple defendants. Call records, cell site, phone downloads, CCTV, surveillance, forensic, intercept and open-source evidence from the UK and Romania.

R v GN – Junior advocate in conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration. Led by Icah Peart KC. Thirty-nine Vietnamese migrants died whilst being brought to the UK. On a separate occasion the defendant collected his nephew. Substantive offence accepted by the prosecution following negotiation and GN sentenced separately to other defendants.

R v MA – Conspiracy to defraud. Unknown parties 'spoofing' banking customers and recruiting couriers to collect money from the couriers.

Drugs

R v AP – Conspiracy to supply of kilos of cocaine. Multiple defendants. Attribution of telephone number and bad character in issue.

R v JE – Conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine. Multiple defendants. County lines supply. Cell site and call records evidence.

R v CA – Conspiracy to import cocaine. Vulnerable defendant. Representations made that CA had been duped by his partner who packed his bag, representations accepted by the prosecution.

R v IH – Conspiracy to produce cannabis. Multiple defendants and multiple premises.

R v AM – Conspiracy to supply class A and class B inside and outside prison. Lead defendant. Led by James Scobie KC.

R v KM – Junior advocate in importation of cocaine and cannabis from Jamaica. Multiple defendants. Phone and surveillance evidence. Led by Ali Bajwa KC.

R v AS – Junior advocate in supply of class A drugs and modern slavery offences. Led by Tom Wainwright.

R v LA – Junior advocate in conspiracy to supply class A. Alleged county lines operation. Led by Nick Wrack. Multiple phones lines and extensive expert evidence including DNA, mass spectrometry, cell site, drugs and forensic accountant. Multiple defendants.

R v CI – Junior advocate in conspiracy to supply class A. Joinder of two separate alleged operations. Multiple defendants. Led by Keir Monteith QC.

R v SB – Conspiracy to supply class. Lead defendant. Duress and Modern Slavery Act defence.

Sexual offences

R v BE – Rape. Complainant with several background issues. Several disclosure applications.

R v NI – Historic child abuse allegations.

R v LA – Multiple complainant allegations. Application to adduce prior acquittal.

EXTRADITION

Romania v DS – Specificity of warrant.

Turkey v KZ – Alevi sought for ID card offences. Human rights and extraneous considerations.

Turkey v IK – Alevi social justice activist in 1990s, accused of terrorism offences. Dual criminality, human rights and extraneous considerations.

Turkey v KD – Alevi, Kurd and social justice activist in 1990s accused of terrorism offences. Dual criminality, human rights and extraneous considerations.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND CONFISCATION

Shahida is able to marshal large amounts of financial material and identify the key issues. Shahida has been instructed as a led junior and junior alone in several, large scale and complex fraud allegations.

Shahida also has a great deal of experience in proceeds of crime matters.

Shahida has experience conducting disclosure and LPP review for the FCA and SFO.

NOTABLE CASES

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R v SC – Proceeds of crime, £900k allegation.

R v RA – Proceeds of crime, £600k allegation. Application to dismiss on ‘possession’.

R v OK – Boots employee fraud. Multiple defendants. Complex legal argument about computer evidence.

R v AC - Southern Rail employee fraud.

R v NW-E - Qualified barrister housing fraud. Confiscation resisted when Bristol City Council sought to pursue under the 'slip rule'.

R v RZ - Ladbrokes employee fraud.

R v LE – Representing a third party in confiscation proceedings.

R v AM – Junior advocate in multimillion fraudulent trading allegation. Led by Keir Monteith KC. Represented company director.

R v AH – Junior advocate in multimillion MTIC fraud. Led by Keir Monteith KC. Lead defendant.

R v MR – Junior advocate multimillion divergence fraud. Led by Lalith De Kauwe. Multiple defendants.

R v MD – Multimillion courier fraud. Multiple defendants. Prosecution offered no evidence after three-week legal argument.

R v JA - Junior advocate in conspiracy to control prostitution and money laundering over £2million. Led by Tom Wainwright. Multiple premises and bank accounts, jointly charged with three other defendants.

Serious Fraud Office - Instructed as disclosure counsel in restraint proceedings involving possible proceeds of crime from Ukraine, disclosure counsel in case involving allegations of bribery to secure contracts for currency production and independent LPP Counsel on the Rolls Royce investigation.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

Shahida is regularly instructed in appeals and has been involved in several guideline cases. Shahida has dealt with novel points of law and issues overlapping with other practice areas.

NOTABLE CASES

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R v JM [2017] EWCA Crim 1228 - Guideline case. Junior advocate in appeal against conviction and sentence. Led by Henry Blaxland QC. Joint enterprise murder. Effective participation of youth defendants and post-Jogee directions. Challenge to mandatory life sentences for youths.

R v DCN [2019] EWCA Crim 910 – Appeal against conviction. Appeal allowed on the basis that there had been a material misdirection of law during the summing up, re-trial directed. Defendant found not guilty at re-trial.

R v AA [2017] 1 Cr. App. R. 33 - Guideline case. Remit of the protections for victims of trafficking charged with criminal offences.

R v CS and LL – Junior advocate in appeal against conviction and sentence. Availability of s.45 Modern Slavery Act defence. Offences committed before the defence came into force but proceedings ongoing after.

R v ZK - Remit of the reduction to be afforded to victims of trafficking in mitigation.

R v OT - Appeal against conviction where Crown had not considered whether it was in the public interest to proceed where the appellant was a victim of trafficking and there was a nexus to the offence.

R v YH - Application for leave to appeal against conviction out of time. Refugee not advised of relevant defence who entered a guilty plea in 2009. The 'substantial injustice' test does not apply to non-change of law cases.

R v JM [2013] EWCA Crim 1051 - Guideline case. Junior advocate in appeal against conviction. Led by Tom Wainwright. Female who disguised herself as a male and had a relationship with another female, whether deception as to gender can vitiate consent.

Romania v DS [2014] EWHC 1326 - Specificity of warrant and article 8, expert evidence on whether Brussels II applied.

R v CY-H - Appeal against sentence. Sentencing judge erred in not assessing the culpability and harm in the absence of sentencing guidelines for 'endangering the safety of a railway passenger'.

R v PD – Appeal against imposition of a sexual harm prevention order.

R v DD [2015] EWCA Crim 521 - Appeal against sentence. Sentencing judge erred in not applying totality for burglary and dangerous driving offences.

R v AS – Appointed by Registrar. Appeal against sentence. Days on remand pending extradition not taken into account and sentence for manslaughter manifestly excessive.

R v IB – Appointed by Registrar. Appeal against sentence. Sentence for sexual offences manifestly excessive and non-indicted, non-admitted incidents taken into account in assessing dangerousness.

R v PW – Appointed by Registrar. Appeal against sentence. Sentencing judge erred in double counting for use of a knife during robbery.

R v NM – Appeal against sentence. Sentencing judge erred in double counting and pandemic considerations taken into account.

R v WB and PS – Appeal to Crown Court of historic convictions of theft on the basis they had been victims of trafficking and entered equivocal pleas, as the trafficking background had been set out in mitigation.

YOUTH JUSTICE & CHILD RIGHTS

Prior to coming to the Bar, Shahida worked at a school in east London as a mentor and is currently part of an initiative to encourage children from east London to consider careers in technology called the 'Inventors Club'. Shahida has defended young defendants in joint enterprise cases raising gang/drill issues, as a led junior and as a leading junior. Shahida successfully appealed a conviction of child defendant due to a bad character misdirection and went on to secure a not guilty verdict at re-trial. Shahida was also instructed in *R v McGill and others* [2017] EWCA Crim 1228, a guideline authority on the need to consider the effective participation of children in the trial process.

Shahida is instructed by Liberty to act as an intervenor in a CCRC referral on the human rights implications of gang evidence and drill music in joint enterprise murder cases.

PROTEST RIGHTS

Shahida has represented several clients arising out of protests, raising human rights and complex legal arguments. Shahida understands the importance of the protest issues for clients and has often represented multiple defendants in joint cases.

Shahida has conducted seminars for Friends of the Earth Campaigners and drafted guidance documents on protest law.

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FJ v DPP - Section 14 order and obstruction of the highway. FJ was protesting corruption in the judiciary outside the Royal Courts of Justice

R v JD - Section 14 order and obstructing the highway. JD was protesting against fracking in Balcombe. High profile case which involved a Member of Parliament who was a co-defendant, Caroline Lucas MP

R v KB, CH and LE - Three defendants, s.14 order and obstructing the highway, linked to R v JD above (alleged offences occurred on the same day). Protest against fracking in Balcombe

R v CD - Obstructing an officer in the execution of duty and obstructing the highway. CD in student protest against cuts to university administration

R v AC - Aggravated trespass. Protest against the Bexhill-Hastings link road

R v OS - Aggravated trespass and common assault. Linked to R v AC, protest against the Bexhill-Hastings link road (occurred earlier in time but part of the same campaign)

R v MC – Conspiracy to steal and commit criminal damage. Animal rights.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW

Shahida has a keen interest in crime-related public law issues and sees the benefit of combining principles from both areas to improve the criminal justice landscape.

NOTABLE CASES

FJ v DPP [2015] EWHC 3296 – Guideline case. Junior advocate in appeal against conviction. Led by Tim Owen QC. Legality of s.14 and proportionality of the prosecution.

R v TD – Breach of gang injunction. High profile drill performer.

R v NB – Appeal against summary conviction. ‘Boat migrants’ case, error of law. There had been an equivocal plea where the appellant had raised asylum on arrival.

Legal delegation to Turkey, January 2023, to consider prison conditions.

BACKGROUND

Shahida attended school in East London then studied law at Cambridge University and King's College London. She undertook work experience with the BBC in Nairobi, voluntary work in Rio de Janeiro, a Legal Protection internship at UNHCR London and taught English in Guangzhou before coming to the Bar.

Shahida is the Women’s Representative on Garden Court Board of Directors, having previously served as a junior tenant’s representative.

Shahida enjoys mentoring young people, having previously tutored in schools, and is on the Board of an initiative called the ‘Inventors Club’, which encourages children from East London to consider careers in technology.

She enjoys travelling, films and karaoke.

PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of 'Criminal Disclosure Referencer', Wainwright, Fenn and Begum (Bloomsbury - Third edition published May 2024).

Shahida conducts pupillage training and advocacy.

Shahida has conducted seminars on protections for victims of trafficking charged with criminal offences, disclosure, unexplained wealth orders, article 10 and 11 considerations in protest cases and how to challenge the use of drill music in prosecutions.

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Unexplained Wealth Orders Explained

(Garden Court Seminar 2018)

The fundamentals of this emerging area of law, including the background, who they are targeted at, predictions and how we can help.

Disclosure: Something Changed

(Garden Court Seminar and LCCSA Conference Valencia 2018)

Recent cases, current problems and potential future changes to the disclosure regime.

Justification Defences: Direct action and freedom of expression

(Garden Court Webinar 2020)

Legal defences rooted in the idea that the actions taken by demonstrators are justified in law either as direct action to prevent a greater harm or as an act of freedom of expression.

Challenging the admissibility of Drill music in criminal trials

(Garden Court Webinar 2020)

Examined how to challenge the introduction of Drill music evidence into criminal trials, or minimise its impact, to avoid miscarriages of justice.

How the US and UK state criminalise Rap and how to combat it

(Garden Court Webinar 2021)

Discussed tactics on how to combat the state's use of rap lyrics in prosecuting serious crime asking questions about both intention and subsequent consequences.

EDUCATION

Cambridge University, BA Law

King's College London, LLM

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Criminal Bar Association

Fraud Lawyers Association

Female Fraud Forum

JUSTICE

LANGUAGES

Bengali

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